



HF Happenings 800

Volume 16, Issue 10, the week of 18 June 2018

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

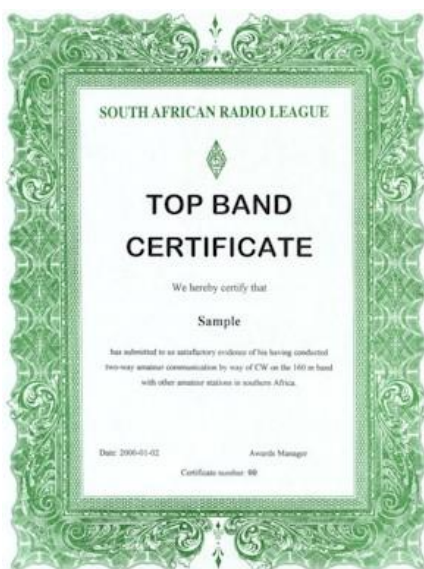
800!

The SARL Top Band QSO Party

This is a fun activity to promote contacts on 160 metres between radio amateurs in Southern African countries and to encourage radio amateurs to apply for the South African Radio League Top Band Award and it takes place from 00:00 UTC on Thursday 21 June to 00:00 UTC on Monday 25 June 2018. The QSO Party is open to all licensed amateurs that have access to the 160-metre band.

Activity takes place on CW between 1 810 and 1 838 kHz and on phone between 1 840 and 2 000 kHz. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Each station can be worked once per mode i.e. once on Phone and again with CW and each contact will count three (3) points. Each South African call area and each DXCC country worked will be awarded with five (5) additional bonus points.

Logs in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format with a summary sheet labelled "my call sign Top Band," must be submitted by 2 July 2018 by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za. Refer to GR 3.6 and 5.1 to 5.6 for detail about logs and summary sheets.



June

- 21 – Winter Solstice
- 21 to 25 – **SARL Top Band QSO Party**
- 22 – all schools close; **closing date for the July Radio ZS articles**
- 22 to 24 – Morgan's Bay Footprint Festival
- 23 – **Cape Town ARC meeting**; Polar Bear Swim at the Bundu, Ventersburg
- 24 – Blairgowrie Collectors Toy Fair at the Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Randburg
- 27 to 30 – InniBos Kunstefees, Nelspruit
- 30 – World Asteroid Day; **end of the SARL Financial year**
- 28 June to 8 July – the National Arts Festival and Wordfest, Grahamstown
- 29 June to 1 July – Kirkwood Wildfees
- 29 June to 8 July – Knysna Oyster Festival

July

- 1 - Start of SARL Financial Year and membership payment is due; **ZS5 Sprint**
- 2 - Closing date Top Band logs
- 6 to 8 – Umtamvuna Festival, Port Edward; Dullstroom Winter Festival; Lazy Hippo MTB Stage Races, Hanover
- 7 - **SARL Newbie QSO Party**; Rhodes Run, Rhodes EC
- 8 to 14 – Vrystaat Arts Festival, Bloemfontein
- 9 - **Closing date ZS5 Sprint logs**
- 13 - **Friggatriskaidekaphobia**
- 14 and 15 - **IARU HF Championships and WRTC 2018**; Franschhoek Bastille Festival
- 14 - **RaDAR Challenge**; October RAE registration opens; West Rand ARC AGM
- 15 to 20 July 1916 - The Battle of Delville Wood
- 16 - Closing date Newbie logs
- 17 - Provincial schools open
- 19 - Delta Aquariid meteor shower
- 19 to 22 – Schreiner Karoo Writers Festival, Cradock
- 21 - **Winter QRP contest**; Pretoria ARC Flea Market
- 22 - **ZS2 Sprint**
- 25 - **Closing date for August Radio ZS**
- 27 to 29 – Winter Celebration, Hogsback
- 28 - **RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest**; Cape Town ARC AGM; Closing date for RaDAR logs; Closing date QRP contest logs
- 29 - **RSGB Islands on the Air (IOTA) contest**; Closing date for ZS2 Sprint logs

The ZS SOTA Weekend

Lucas Swart, ZS6ACT, has made arrangements that the SOTA team of Sid, ZS5AYC and Adele, ZS5APT Tyler and Lucas, ZS6ACT and Magda ZS6MMS Swart will be activating two summits in the Sani Pass area over the weekend of 28 June to 1 July.

The two 10 point summits are ZS/KN-010, Hodson's Peak South at 3 256 m and ZS/KN-011, Hodson's Peak North at 3 251 m, both are in Grid Locator KG40PJ. Chasers are needed, those that do not feel like going out in the cold, can chase from their shacks!

The team say it would be amazing if we made this a South African SOTA weekend with possible Summit to Summit (S2S) contacts. Maybe even S2S with other SOTA associations!

If anyone wants to join the team in Lesotho, you are more than welcome. The teams could be split and have S2S QSOs between the Hodson's peaks. You need to have a valid passport and arrange for accommodation at the Sani Backpackers Lodge, there is a restaurant at the top of Sani Pass and the highest Pub in Africa - reasonably expensive. The team will be self-catering, the restaurant does however make a delicious soup that is served with Basotho bread and butter. Be prepared for snow!

The team plan on activating both summits on Saturday 30 June, final arrangements of the exact times and frequencies will be sent later. We will arrive at the top of Sani Pass on Friday 29 June to acclimatize! If you cannot join us, what about activating a SOTA in your area? Let us have fun and play radio, either by participating in SOTA, Parks on the Air (ZS Fauna and Flora) or RaDAR.



Reverse Beacon Network and FT8

A few weeks ago, several prolific RBN nodes began spotting FT8 signals, using the combination of WSJT-X and an unreleased Aggregator Version 5. The purpose of this limited Alpha test was to get a feel for the load and other implications of carrying FT8 spots on the RBN.

The most striking characteristic of FT8 spots is their sheer quantity, and it seems obvious that adding FT8 spots to the spot flow could have a huge impact on the infrastructure of the RBN.

"We frankly don't know whether the RBN servers will be up to the task", the RBN Team says, "so we decided we had better find out before the autumn contest season is upon us".

Effective immediately, and on a Beta test basis, the RBN's current spot feed <http://telnet.reversebeacon.net> port 7000 will handle only CW and RTTY spots, while <http://telnet.reversebeacon.net> port 7001 will be set up for FT8 spots only. See www.reversebeacon.net/pages/FT8+Announcement+40 for more information.

Assigning Kosovo Z6 call signs 'Unauthorized and Illegal'

The ARRL reports Kosovo, which won its battle to become a DXCC entity earlier this year, appears to have another fight on its hands.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Houlin Zhao has determined that the Z6 call sign prefix was never allocated to Kosovo. The Secretary-General issued his finding in the wake of a 16 March inquiry from Serbia, from which Kosovo declared independence 10 years ago, the last piece of the former Yugoslavia to do so. Serbia has continued to reject Kosovo's secession.

"ITU has not allocated call sign series Z6 to any of its member states," Houlin Zhou said. "Consequently, the utilization of call signs series Z6 by any entity without a formal allocation and consent of the ITU represents an unauthorized and illegal usage of this international numbering resource."

The Secretary-General's statement was reported in ITU Operational Bulletin No. 1149. He cited Article 19 of the Radio Regulations, which states that the management of international series of call signs is an ITU prerogative. "Call sign series can be allocated only to the administrations of the ITU member states by World Radiocommunication Conferences or, between conferences, by the ITU Secretary-General," asserted Houlin Zhou, who gave no indication that he would do so.

Kosovo joins a short list of DXCC entities where radio amateurs use "unofficial" call sign prefixes. The list also includes Western Sahara (S0) and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (1A).

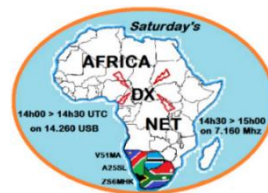
Earlier this year, in Mission Goodwill Kosovo, the IARU member-society SHRAK's headquarters station Z60A mounted a massive special event operation to celebrate Kosovo's addition to the DXCC List, as well as its 10th anniversary of independence.

ITU Operational Bulletin www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/sp/T-SP-OB.1149-2018-OAS-PDF-E.pdf

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

Senegal, 6W. Dominic, ON4AZP, will be active as 6W/ON4AZP from Senegal between 25 June and 5 July. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau or eQSL.



Sierra Leone, 9L. Mark, KW4XJ, who is now active as 9L1YXJ from Freetown (Grid locator IJ38JK), informs OPDX that his overseas assignment is for 3 years and he has been there for 9 months now. Mark operates mainly on CW and the Digital modes on the HF bands (40 to 10 m).

He adds that he [edited] uses an "ICOM IC-7300 running 100 watts, Chameleon EMCOMM II end-fed wire antenna in an inverted L configuration, with a telescopic mast up about 25', then the rest of the wire out horizontally to a convenient supporting anchor. I had to switch to the wire antenna as we have progressed into the rainy season, and we do get some rather strong wind gusts and monsoon rains here in the tropics. Before that I was using a Chameleon mil-whip w/extension. That worked very well but is a portable antenna. No way it could hold up to the storms this time of year. The wire antenna seems to be holding up well so far. I am going to be ordering an Elecraft 500 watt amplifier and electronic antenna tuner here shortly. I hope to have that delivered and installed in about a month or so. Right now, I am using an MFJ manual antenna tuner — it works fine but after a while it gets tiring and the lazy side of me wants to just hit a button to tune. :) With the sunspot cycle where it is I have only been able to make FT8 and CW contacts with just 100 watts. Sometimes PSK31 will work from here. I have made a handful of RTTY contacts. Usually CW and FT8 most of the time. SSB seems pointless after many attempted QSOs to Europe that were very marginal at best if we could get through at all. That is why I was thinking the amplifier would help. My CW skills are still pretty basic, I can reliably manage about 13 WPM on the air.

I did do my first ever CW contest here recently for the CQMM DX. I made over 300 contacts which I thought was a decent showing given my relatively low power, rookie operator, and slow speed. I need to find another CW contest to try. I'm still relatively new at operating on HF. I've got a lot of unexpected, excellent advice from hams around the world — the US, but also lots of help from the UK, Germany, Brazil, and Japanese operators.

This is an amazing hobby. I have had FT8/JT65 QSOs from here in Freetown to the Falkland Islands, Iceland, Japan (lots of Japan on the long path), Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the West coast of Canada, all with my modest setup." QSL via his home call sign.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 11 to 18 June 2018

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 18 June

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band

All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3

points per QSO with member on same continent; 5

points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 June 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://qrpccontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/>

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 June

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country;
non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 22 June 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.per-luma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 20 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 June

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no, non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 23 June 2018

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NAQCC CW Sprint

00:30 - 02:30 UTC 21 June

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 1 watt

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member

2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC June 24, 2018

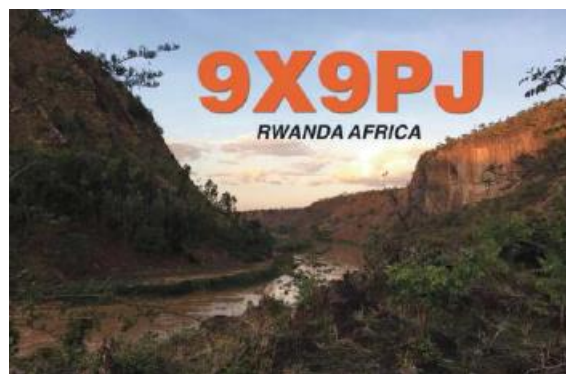
E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net and jcoreyc@gmail.com

Upload log at: http://naqcc.info/sprint_submit_log.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201806mw.html>



NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 22 June

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 June 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 June

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 June 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

UFT QRP Contest
06:00 - 09:00 UTC 23 June and 14:00 - 17:00 UTC 23 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP or high
Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: RST, QRP/QRO and UFT member no; non-member: RST, QRP/QRO and "NM"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each UFT member once per band; Each QSO with F8UFT once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 July 2018
E-mail logs to: f6cel@orange.fr
Mail logs to: Ghislain Barbasson, 5, rue de l'Ecluse, F-02190 Pignancourt, France
Find rules at: www.uft.net/reglement/eng.pdf

Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest
12:00 UTC 23 June to 12:00 UTC 24 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY, PSK63
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: SOAB - low or high; SOSB - low or high; MOMB
Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W
Exchange: UR: RST and 2-letter Oblast; non-UR: RST and QSO no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band per mode; Each oblast once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 July 2018
E-mail logs to: urdigl@izmail-dx.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.izmail-dx.com/>

His Majesty the King of Spain SSB Contest

12:00 UTC 23 June to 12:00 UTC 24 June
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: EA: RS and province; non-EA: RS and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each EA province once per band; Each EADX100 entity once per band; Each special (EA0) station once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 9 July 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: <http://concursos.ure.es/en/logs/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://concursos.ure.es/en/s-m-el-rey-de-espana-ssb/bases/>

ARRL Field Day
18:00 UTC 23 June to 21:00 UTC 24 June
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: All
Bands: All, except 30, 17, 12 m
Classes: A: Club/non-club portable; B: One/two person portable; C: Mobile; D: Home; E: Home-emergency power; F: EOC
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: W/VE: Number of transmitters (see rules), operating class and ARRL/RAC section; DX: Number of transmitters (see rules), operating class and "DX"
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO
Bonus Points: see rules
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points and bonus points
Submit logs by: 20:59 UTC 24 July 2018
Post log summary at: <http://www.b4h.net/cab-forms/fielddayentry.php>
Mail logs to: Field Day Entries, 225 Main St., Newton, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Public demonstration of emergency communications 22 and 23 June

Despite the Internet, mobile phones, e-mail and modern communications, every year whole regions find themselves in the dark - tornadoes, fires, storms, ice and even the occasional cutting of fibre optic cables leave people without the means to communicate. In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed has been amateur radio.

These radio operators, often called "hams," provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and even for the International Space Station. Your community's "hams" will join with thousands of other amateur radio operators, showing their emergency capabilities next weekend.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America, including the California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events worldwide. When trouble is brewing, amateur radio's people are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications. On Friday and Saturday, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with local amateur radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about as hams across the United States will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day," is the climax of the week-long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country. Their slogan, "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works," is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 35 000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

Read the full Times Leader article at www.timesleaderonline.com/news/community/2018/06/public-demo-of-emergency-communications-june-22-23/



Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 June

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 June

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 June

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 28 June

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 June

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 June

Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 30 June

Battle of Carabobo International Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 30 July

RAC Canada Day Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 July

10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 2 July to 24:00 UTC 8 July

IQRP Quarterly Marathon, 08:00 UTC 2 July to 20:00 UTC 8 July

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 2 July

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 July

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter